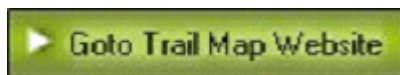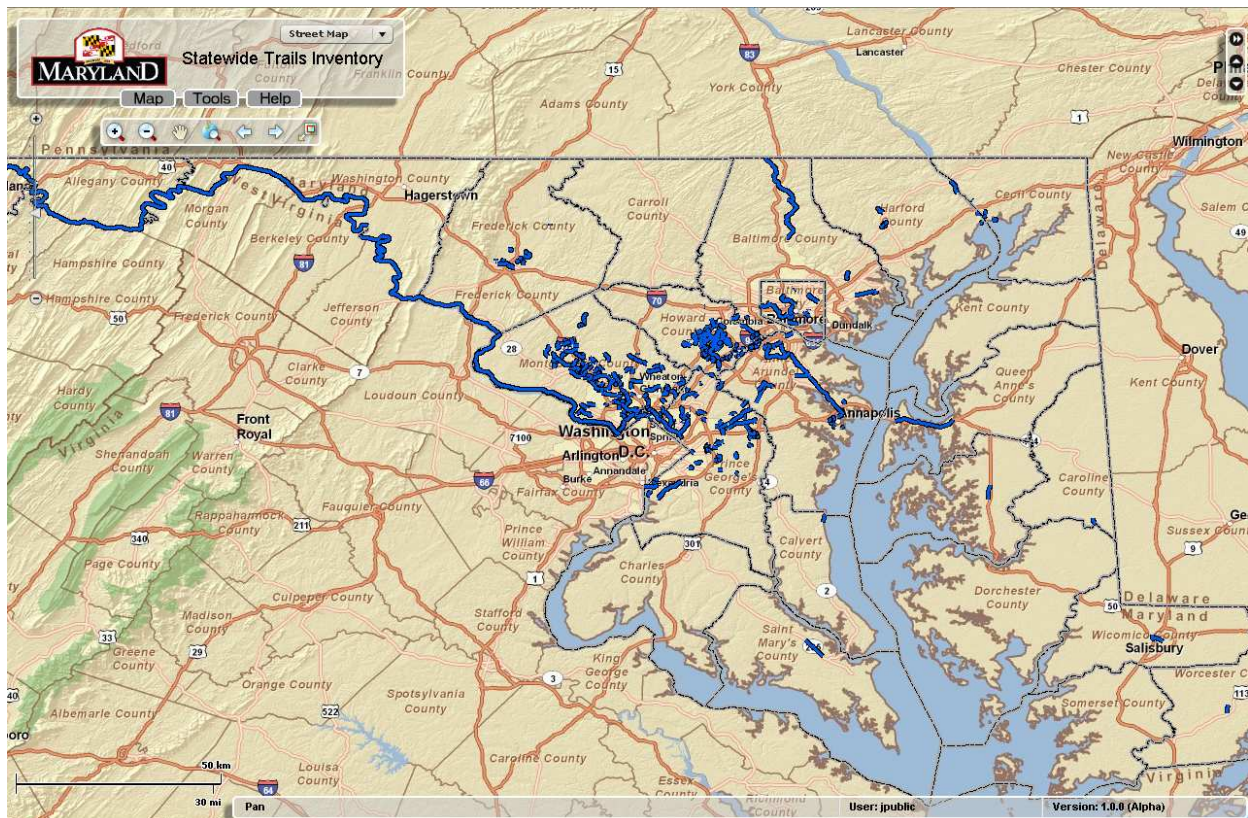# Maryland Trails: *A Greener Way To Go*
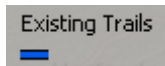
Interactive Trails Map Users Guide

This beta version of the Interactive Trails Map was developed by the Maryland Department of Transportation as the first step towards an application that will help the State of Maryland track it's progress towards trail goals, provide local governments and agencies a venue to coordinate trail planning activities, and assist Maryland residents and visitors learn about local trail opportunities.

Specialized software is not required to use this map. Only a web browser is needed. The map has been tested using two different web browsers – Internet Explorer 7 and Firefox version 3 or newer. If you are using an older version of these browsers or a different browser, the map may not function as designed.
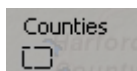

Upon clicking on the "Go to Trail Map Website" button the map will load in several seconds.

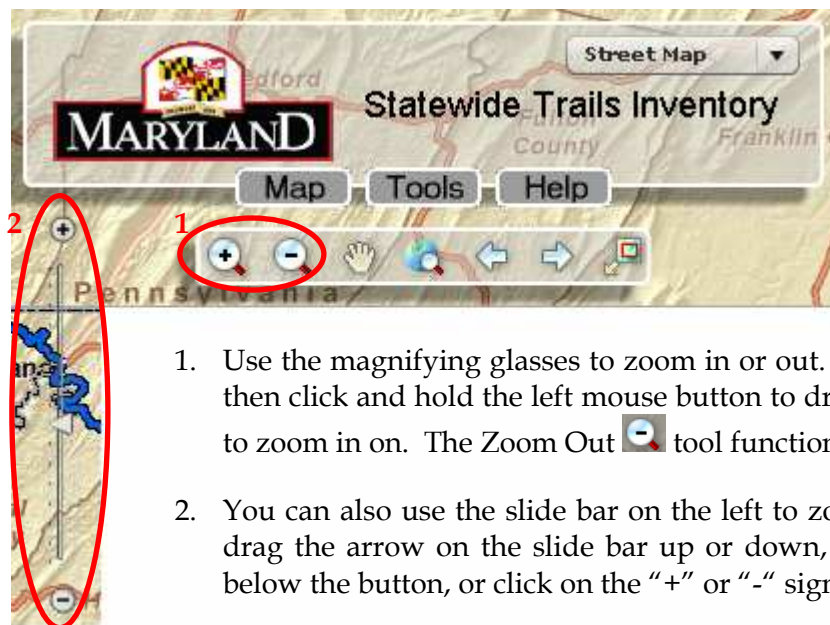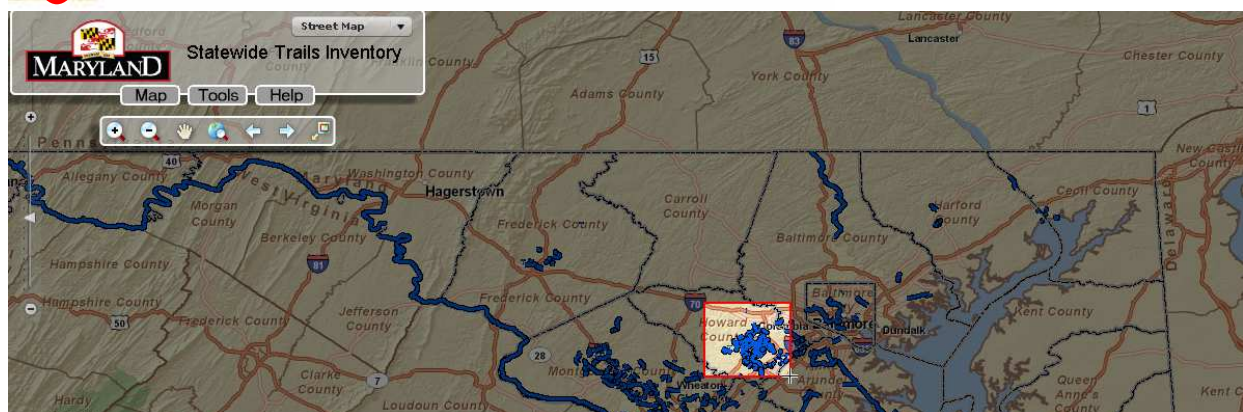|	
Existing Trails	When the map opens existing "transportation trails" are shown in dark blue. "Transportation trails" are shared-use paths that can be used for both transportation and recreation (sometimes called multi-use or hiker-biker trails).
Counties	Maryland county boundaries are shown as a black dashed line.
Transit **M** Metrorail (WMATA) **MARC** **MTA LRT** **M** MTA Metro	Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) rail, Maryland Area Regional Commuter (MARC) rail, Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) light rail, and MTA Metro rail stations are shown using the symbols shown. *Note:* Transit stations are only visible on the map when it is zoomed in to the city/county level.

Navigating Around the Map

Zooming In or Out to See More or Less Detail

1. Use the magnifying glasses to zoom in or out. Click on the Zoom In icon, then click and hold the left mouse button to drag a red square around the area to zoom in on. The Zoom Out tool functions in the same manner.

2. You can also use the slide bar on the left to zoom in or out. With the mouse, drag the arrow on the slide bar up or down, click on the slide bar above or below the button, or click on the "+" or "-" sign at the slide bar ends.
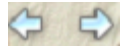
Other Basic Navigation Tools

Click the Pan button. Click on the map and hold the left mouse button down to move the map around in the window

Click the Zoom to Full Extent button to zoom out to the state level.

Click the Zoom Previous and Zoom Next buttons to go back to a previous view of the map.

Click the Overview Map button to view a zoomed out overview map.

Locating a Street Address

1. Mouse over the Tools menu and click on the Locate tool.

2. In the Locate pop-up window that appears, enter a street address, city, state, and zip code. Click on the Locate button. The map will automatically zoom to the address.

3. To look up a new address, click the mailbox icon.

4. To close the Locate tool window, click the green icon.

Changing the Background Map

The Interactive Trails Map provides three different background map options:

- Street Map view shows roads, place names, etc.
- Satellite Map view shows an aerial image.
- Physical Map view is a shaded map showing topography (elevation).

To change the background map, click on the Background Map pull-down menu and select an option from the list.

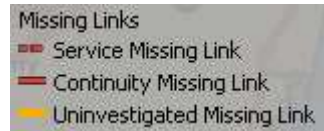

Changing the Data on the Map

The Interactive Trails Map automatically displays existing trails, transit stations, and county boundaries when it opens. The user can control what data is displayed on the map.

1. Mouse over the Map menu and click on MD Trails.

2. In the MD Trails pop-up window, click the grey arrow ▶ (next to the check box) to view the list of data that can be displayed. Check marks indicate the data layers that are "turned on" and are visible on the map. Clicking on a check box will turn a data layer on or off. The map will redraw automatically.

3. To view the map legend, click the information ⓘ icon.

4. To go back to the list of data layers, click the folder 📁 icon.

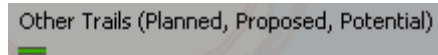5. To close the MD Trails window, click the green 🟩 icon.

Supporting Data Layer Descriptions

- **Missing Links –** This layer represents key links in Maryland's transportation trails network that have not yet been developed. Missing Links are classified into three categories:
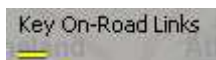
  Missing Links
  ▬▬ Service Missing Link
  ▬▬ Continuity Missing Link
  ▬▬ Uninvestigated Missing Link

  - *Service Missing Links –* These are corridors within and between major population/employment centers that are without existing trail linkages. Generally, these gaps are greater than 2.0 miles in length.

  - *Continuity Missing Links –* These are gaps between existing or planned trails and are generally less than 2.0 miles in length. Continuity gaps also include trail links to transit stations.

  - *Uninvestigated Missing Links –* These are conceptual trail links, identified only as a need. No trail corridor has been defined. The length of the link is a gross estimate and the actual extent or points of linkage to other trails are undetermined.

- **Other Trails (Planned, Proposed, Potential) –** Other Trails (Planned, Proposed, Potential)
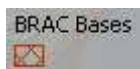
  This layer represents transportation trail projects that have not yet been developed and are not currently identified as key missing links in the Statewide transportation trail network. Planned trails have been included in an adopted plan or are otherwise actively moving through a planning process. Proposed trails are in the early stage of the planning process or have been proposed by citizens, advocacy groups, or government agencies. Potential trails have had only a cursory level of investigation into right-of-way, environmental issues, public support, engineering, etc.

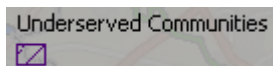- **Key On-Road Links –** Key On-Road Links

  This layer represents on-road links (identified to date) that connect trails and fill gaps in the Statewide transportation trail network (e.g. on-road portions of the East Coast Greenway and Baltimore-Washington routes). These links are *not* all signed on-road bike routes.

- **BRAC Bases –** BRAC Bases

  Military bases impacted by the Federal Base Realignment and Closure Act (BRAC).

- **Underserved Communities -** Underserved Communities

  Underserved communities are areas with few or no transportation trails. Underserved communities were identified based on population density and the location of existing trails and missing links.

Identify Features & View Detailed Data

The Identify tool allows users to identify features on the map and view more detailed data about each feature.

1. Mouse over the Tools menu and click on Identify.

2. To limit the Identify results to a particular layer (e.g. existing trails), select the layer from the pull-down menu in the Identify pop-up window.

3. Click the blue dot ![blue dot icon] icon.

4. Click on any feature in the map to identify it and view more detailed information. An ![info icon] icon will appear on the map and detailed information about features located at that point will appear in the Identify window.

5. To close the Identify window, click the green ![green icon] icon.
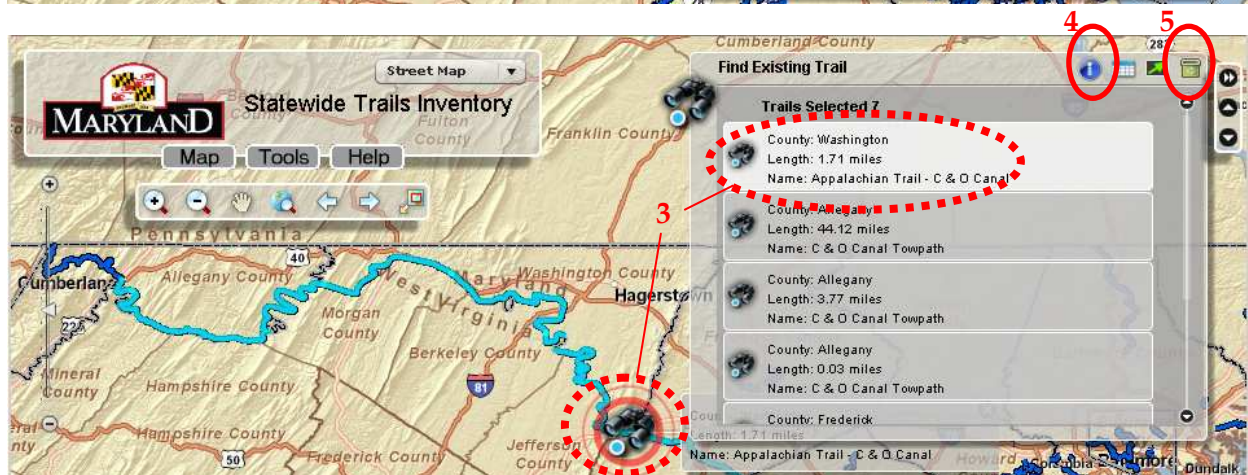
Find an Existing Transportation Trail

The Interactive Trails Map can be used to locate existing transportation trails in Maryland based on trail name, county location, or trail length.

1. Mouse over the Tools menu and click on Find Existing Trail.

2. In the Find Existing Trail pop-up window:

   – Enter all or part of the name of a trail (e.g. entering "Falls Trail" will highlight Gwynn Falls Trail and Jones Falls Trail on the map), or

   – Select a county from the pull-down menu, or

   – Enter a range of trail lengths (e.g. 0-10 miles)

   Click the Find button. A list of trail segments that match the search criteria will appear in the Find Existing Trail window. These trail segments will also be highlighted on the map.
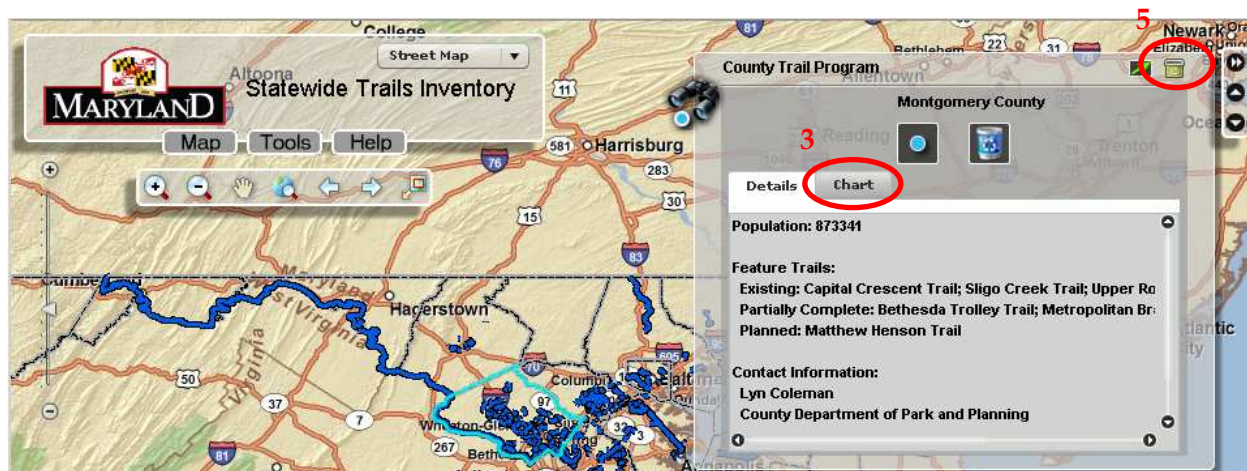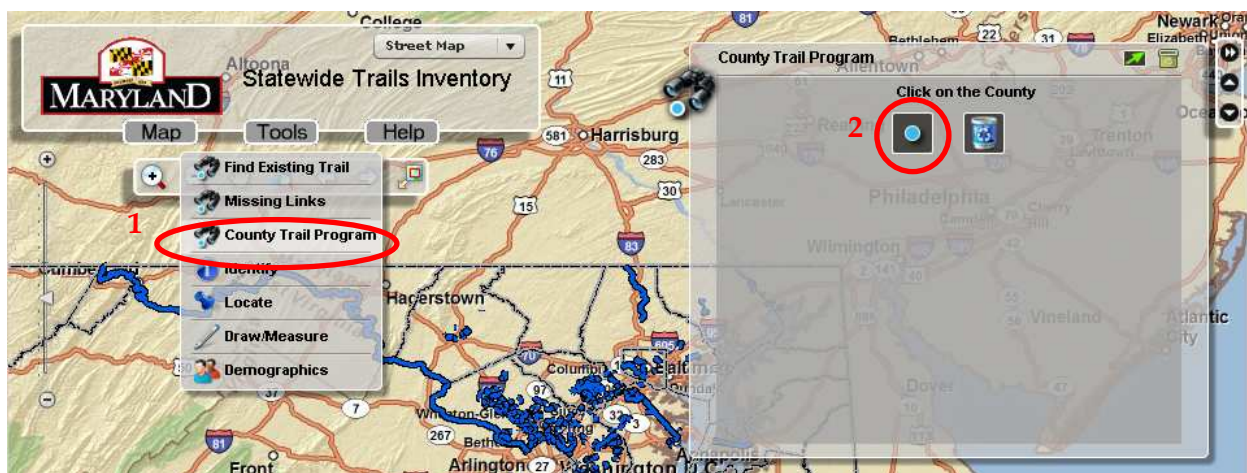
3. Click on any trail segment in the results list to zoom in on it. A binoculars [icon] icon will appear over the selected trail segment.

4. Click on the information [icon] icon to start a new search.

5. To close the Find Existing Trail window, click the green [icon] icon.

View County Trail Program Information

The County Trail Program tool provides users a summary of each county's existing and planned transportation trail network. It also provides contact information for local trail planners and links to local trail planning websites (if available).

1. Mouse over the Tools menu and click on County Trail Program.

2. Click the blue dot ▣ icon, then click anywhere on the map to select a county. The selected county will by highlighted on the map and detailed information about the county's trail program will appear in the County Trail Program window. Use the scroll bars to scroll through the information.

3. Click the Chart tab to view a pie chart of existing transportation trail and missing link mileage in the county. Mouse over the chart segments to see more detailed information. Click on the mileage chart to toggle to a chart of Federal trail funding sources.

4. To view information for a new county, click the blue dot ▣ icon and then click on a new county on the map.

5. To close the County Trail Program window, click the green ▣ icon.

Find Missing Links in the Trail Network

The Interactive Trails Map can be used to search for missing links in the transportation trails network that were identified in the Maryland Trails: A Greener Way to Go Plan. These missing links can be queried based upon multiple criteria.

1. Mouse over the Tools menu and click on Missing Links.

2. The Missing Links pop-up window can be used to identify missing links based on multiple criteria. Click the check boxes to select or unselect the following criteria.

   – Is the link in a Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Impact Area?

   – Is the link in an underserved community identified in the MD Trails Plan?

   – Is the link within one half mile of a rail transit station? If so, is transit-oriented development planned for the rail station?

   – Does the link address a physical barrier (e.g. river or highway crossing)?

   – Does the link complete a segment of a national or regional trail (e.g. East Coast Greenway, American Discovery Trail)?

   Check marks indicate the criteria will be used to query the list of potential missing links.

3. Use the pull-down menus to query missing links based on the following criteria:

   – What is the status of the project (e.g. planned, proposed, uninvestigated)?

   – Does the link bridge a gap between existing trails (continuity link) or provide service to a new area (service link)?

4. After the search criteria have been selected, click the Find button. A list of missing links that match the search criteria will appear in the Missing Links window and will also be highlighted on the map.

5. Click on any missing link in the results list to zoom in on it. A binoculars ![binoculars icon] icon will appear over the selected link.

6. Click on the information ![information icon] icon to start a new search.

7. To close the Missing Links window, click the green ![green icon] icon.